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Letter dated 18 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 15 June 2001 from Mr. Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) concerning United Kingdom-supplied ammunition allegedly captured in Lofa county, Liberia (S/2001/595, annex).

The United Kingdom has not supplied any arms or ammunition to dissident movements in the Mano River region. As is well known, the British Government has been supplying equipment to the Sierra Leone Army and has been instructing the Army in control and accounting procedures for all their equipment, including arms and ammunition. The British Government has fully complied with all regulations of the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations concerning the import of weapons to Sierra Leone. The United Kingdom notes that considerable quantities of equipment were captured by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in May 2000, which included equipment given to the Sierra Leone Army by the United Kingdom.

The British Government would nevertheless be ready to conduct a thorough investigation of this matter. For that purpose, we would request that the Liberian authorities produce photographs and serial numbers of the cartridges in their possession. With these, my authorities will be able to trace the origin of the items and where they were destined. The United Kingdom is confident that it can account for all of the mortar bombs supplied to the Sierra Leone Army since May 2000.

(*Signed*) Steward **Eldon**
Chargé d'affaires

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